

NEWS RELEASE

USDA Forest Service Prescott National Forest

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**For Immediate Release
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Inter-Agency Wildland Fire Drill

PRESCOTT, AZ (March 30, 2006) – Prescott Basin Wildland Fire and Emergency Management Operations Group is sponsoring an Inter-Agency training exercise. Prescott National Forest fire officials along with Yavapai County Emergency Services, Yavapai County Sheriffs Office, Yavapai Regional Medical Center, Yavapai County Health Department, Arizona State Land Department, Arizona Public Service, Unisource Energy Services, Santa Fe Propane, Animal Disaster Services, Lifeline Ambulance and the fire departments of Groom Creek, Prescott, Central Yavapai, Chino Valley, Mayor, Williamson Valley, Verde Valley, Crown King, and Black Canyon City will participate in a “Wildland Fire Emergency Drill”. The training exercise will start on Friday, April 7 and continue through Saturday, April 8. This years training exercise will focus on structure protection and evacuation in the community of Pinehurst. Fire officials will not be igniting small burns this year due to lack of moisture.

We would like to warn visitors and residents of Pinehurst and Groom Creek of increased traffic in these communities and on Senator Highway. Please be cautious while driving and recreating in the area.

This interagency effort is designed to test and practice an effective interagency response to suppressing wildland fire emergencies. The drill will provide wildland fire suppression training, fire management strategies, tactics, alternatives, fire behavior, evacuation efforts, and reinforce firefighter and public safety.

“I would like to thank Groom Creek, Pinehurst and Prescott Pines Camp for allowing us the opportunity to improve our mutual aid response to wildland fire emergencies in your communities”, said Drill Incident Commander Robert Travis.

Media that would like to observe, take photographs, etc., please RSVP to Debbie Maneely at (928)443-8130 by April 5.

END